

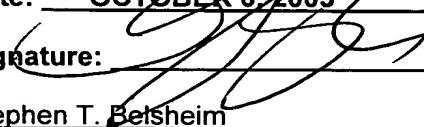
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: Yeckley )  
Serial No. To Be Assigned ) GROUP ART UNIT  
Filed: October 6, 2003 )  
For: SiAlON Containing Ytterbium ) Examiner:  
And Method of Making )

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Introductory Comments**

This paper is a preliminary amendment that applicant requests be entered prior to the examination of the present patent application.